

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **SB 3827 - HB 3984**

March 2, 2008

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Creates a new Class A misdemeanor to knowingly own a pit bull dog or pit bull terrier as defined in the bill. Requires court to order a person convicted of owning a pit bull or pit bull terrier to surrender custody of the dog to a humane society.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Revenue – Exceeds \$100,000**

**Increase Local Expenditures\* - Exceeds \$2,700,000**

**Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant**

#### **Assumptions:**

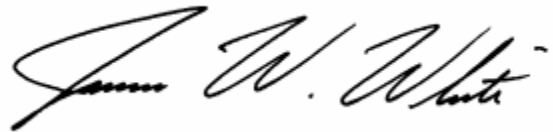
- Class A misdemeanor is punishable by incarceration up to 11 months and 29 days or a fine up to \$2,500 or both.
- Any cost associated with an increase in caseloads for the state trial courts can be accommodated within existing judicial resources.
- According to the Comptroller of the Treasury, many humane societies receive contributions from local governments to help fund their operations. This bill could result in humane societies requesting an undeterminable amount of additional funding as a result of this bill.
- According to research conducted by the local government analyst, no local governments currently require registration of pit bulls or pit bull terriers as defined in the bill. Estimate assumes local government revenue will increase \$100,000 from fines levied against owners who do not surrender their dogs as required and are charged with a Class A misdemeanor. It is estimated that 99 percent of all surrendered pit bull dogs will be euthanized due to the difficulty in placing such dogs for out-of-state adoption. The average cost to euthanize a 45-pound dog is \$46.24. Based on an estimate of 60,000 pit bulls statewide or one pit bull per 100 persons, local expenditures will increase \$2,774,400 statewide (\$46.24 x 60,000). Local government will have an increase in costs due to the additional transportation of dogs picked up by the local sheriffs. An increase in expenses due to increased litigation from owners who do not want to surrender their dogs.

- Forty-three counties in Tennessee do not have a humane shelter or animal control facility that euthanizes dogs. Many shelters do not track the breed of dogs that are handled in the facilities.

\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/lsc